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**From:** Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2020 3:07:46 PM  
**To:** Servidio, Cosmo [Servidio.Cosmo@epa.gov]; Fernandez, Cristina [Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov]; Arnold, David [arnold.david@epa.gov]; Melvin, Karen [Melvin.Karen@epa.gov]; Armstrong, Joan [Armstrong.Joan@epa.gov]; Fields, Jenifer [fields.jenifer@epa.gov]; Esher, Diana [Esher.Diana@epa.gov]; Rodrigues, Cecil [rodrigues.cecil@epa.gov]; Mastro, Donna [Mastro.Donna@epa.gov]; Gardner, Allison [Gardner.Allison@epa.gov]; Armstead, John A. [Armstead.John@epa.gov]; Driscoll, Stacie [Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov]  
**CC:** White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; Landis, Jeffrey [Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Press materials from PES report released today  
**Attachments:** PRESS RELEASE ON BENZENE FROM REFINERIES.docx; Benzene Report FINAL 2.6.20.pdf

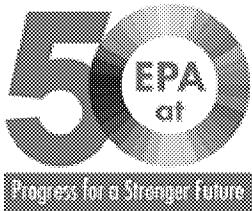
HQ has developed this statement for inquiries related to the attached Environmental Integrity Report on benzene. PES is highlighted. Please forward any media inquiries to me and Terri.

**Attributable to an EPA Spokesperson:** It is important to note that benzene concentration levels monitored at the perimeter of a refinery do not reflect benzene levels in the community. The actual exposure to benzene in nearby communities can vary from the concentrations measured at a refinery's fenceline, depending on multiple factors that include emissions from nearby non-refinery sources (which may include motor vehicles and chemical plants), weather conditions and wind direction.

The fenceline monitoring data, along with other values, are used as an indicator of benzene *emissions* from facilities. The federal action level is intended as a benchmark to flag when emissions are higher than expected, so that facilities can look for the cause and take early action. The federal action level *is not* based on an analysis of risk levels to the community—but rather on emissions from the facility. The action level is a stringent level (more stringent than many state standards) in order to provide ample opportunity for early action. Should exceedances be ongoing, this may be a flag for EPA to do further analyses regarding potential community risk.

Thanks,

Chad Nitsch  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)  
215-814-5434



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**From:** Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** Regional Public Affairs Directors <Regional\_Public\_Affairs\_Directors@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Millett, John <Millett.John@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Press materials from PES report released today

See attached – and our statement below.

Please send any press inquiries to [press@epa](mailto:press@epa) thanks ng

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**From:** Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:26 PM

**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; regionalpress <[regionalpress@epa.gov](mailto:regionalpress@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Press materials from PES report released today

Report and press release from the Environmental Integrity Report.